

**MINUTES OF THE
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007

At a meeting of the **Planning and Economic Development Committee**, held Tuesday, April 17, 2007, in the Board Room, on the 9th Floor of the Administration Building, Mount Clemens, the following members were present:

Vosburg-Chair, Brdak, Brown, Camphous-Peterson, DeSaele, DiMaria, Duzyj, Gielegghem, Mijac, Rengert and Roberts.

Absent and excused were Drolet and Haggerty.

Other Commissioners Also Present:

Commissioner Joan Flynn
Commissioner Lund

There being a quorum of the committee present, Chair Vosburg called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA

Chair Vosburg removed item #9 at the request of Mr. Arthur Mullen, DDA Director. One of the presenters was unable to attend today's committee meeting. She then moved item #10 to #6A. There were no objections.

MOTION

A motion was made by Gielegghem, supported by Duzyj, to adopt the agenda, as amended.
The Motion Carried.

MINUTES

MOTION

A motion was made by DiMaria, supported by DeSaele, to approve the February 6, 2007 minutes of this committee, as written. **The Motion Carried.**

RECOGNITION OF ANDERSON, ECKSTEIN AND WESTRICK, INC. ENGINEERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COUNTY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

Mr. Cassin introduced Mr. Roy Rose, President, Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick, Inc. (AEW) and who is Co-Chair of Focus Macomb. AEW is working with new companies in Macomb County's attraction efforts and has graciously volunteered their time and expertise at no charge to the county. Mr. Rose spoke about AEW's knowledge and expertise of the utilities infrastructure in Macomb County.

PRESENTATION FROM MICHIGAN SUBURBS ALLIANCE

Mr. Jason Friedmann introduced Mr. Conan Smith, Executive Director, Michigan Suburbs Alliance (MSA).

Mr. Smith gave a PowerPoint presentation. Key topics covered included: Our Vision, Our Mission, Our Board Members, Charter Members, Elevating Regional Cooperation (Creating Collaborative Communities), Innovating Redevelopment Strategies (Redevelopment Ready Communities and Transit-Oriented Development), Reforming Public Policies (Municipal Finance Reform and Affordable Housing Planning), Research and Education (Michigan Universities Project), Networking (Conferences and Meetings, Affiliations and Partnerships), and Neighborhood Planning (Metro Detroit Regional Investment Initiative).

After the presentation, several questions were directed to Mr. Smith about topics that he covered in his presentation. During discussion, Mr. Smith said that the MSA is currently working with several Macomb County communities as part of its Redevelopment Readiness Communities (RRC) Program. RRC is a program created to streamline the redevelopment process, encourage redevelopment, and promote economic growth in Southeast Michigan's older, established communities. He spoke about the progress of the RRC Program and other efforts the MSA is currently involved in.

Mr. Smith extended an invitation to all commissioners to attend an upcoming Mayors & Managers Breakfast: Legacy Costs that is going to be held in Warren.

AUTHORIZE TO ESTABLISH THE PROJECT AREA, PROJECT DISTRICT AREA, AND APPOINT TWO NEIGHBORHOOD EDC DIRECTORS TO THE MACOMB COUNTY EDC FOR THE AIM PLASTICS EDC PROJECT

Prior to the start of this committee meeting, a four-page handout was distributed.

Mr. Bob Tess gave an overview of this request. He spoke about AIM Plastics undertaking of a considerable expansion of their operations. He introduced Mr. Jim Jarrett, Vice President, AIM Plastics who was present with his sister Kathy, who also works for the company.

Mr. Jarrett described to committee members the details of the project. Currently, they are 85-90% medical based and 95% of their business/sales is from outside the State of Michigan. The proposed expansion will help them meet their customers growing demand by increasing their capability in secondary operations such as final assembly and sterile packaging, as well as, increasing their capacity. New growth will bring on roughly 10 employees and by the fifth year they expect to have 40-45 new hires. He showed committee members some medical devices that his company makes.

After the presentation, several questions were directed to Mr. Jarrett about topics that he covered in his presentation. During discussion, Mr. Tess informed committee members that they are pitching this program to every company that qualifies. He spoke about the requirements that have to be met.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GIELEGHEM, SUPPORTED BY CAMPHOUS-PETERSON, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZE TO ESTABLISH THE PROJECT AREA, PROJECT DISTRICT AREA, AND APPOINT TWO NEIGHBORHOOD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (EDC) DIRECTORS TO THE MACOMB COUNTY EDC FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BOND FINANCING FOR AIM PLASTICS, CLINTON TOWNSHIP. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

AUTHORIZE SCHEDULING OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 23, 2007 FOR THE AIM PLASTICS EDC PROPOSAL

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CAMPHOUS-PETERSON, SUPPORTED BY GIELEGHEM, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZE THE SCHEDULING OF A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BOND FINANCING FOR AIM PLASTICS, CLINTON TOWNSHIP, ON MAY 23, 2007 AT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

AUTHORIZE TO ISSUE RFP TO HIRE A CONSULTANT TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Chair Vosburg explained the purpose of this request. She recalled that this committee approved a single vendor two months ago, but because of changes in the Planning and Economic Development (PED) Department it would be best to go out for a Request for Proposals.

A two-page handout was distributed.

Mr. Cassin described the strategic plan. He informed committee members that this request would allow other organizations and other companies to provide their proposals.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CAMPHOUS-PETERSON, SUPPORTED BY BROWN, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) IN ORDER TO HIRE A CONSULTANT TO ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION OF A STRATEGIC PLAN.

A discussion ensued with Mr. Cassin pertaining to this request.

Commissioner Rengert thought that maybe the chair or the PED Department should look into what St. Clair County is doing, as well. He thought that they have an economic development alliance and inquired if that would be a benefit. He suggested having a presentation by St. Clair County at a future committee meeting. Mr. Cassin thought Macomb County's model is much more successful. Mr. Tess added that in terms of metrics, Macomb County outperforms St. Clair County.

Commissioner Duzyj spoke about past studies that have been done. He felt that Mr. Cassin knows what needs to be done. He cannot support this request.

A discussion ensued about the need to hire more Economic Development Attraction Specialists. Some Commissioners felt that Mr. Cassin should come back with a plan before going to an outside agency. It was felt that Mr. Frame should put out a press release on everything that is brought into the county.

Chair Vosburg called for a vote on the motion and **THE MOTION CARRIED WITH DUZYJ VOTING "NO."**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by DeSaele, to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m.
The Motion Carried.

Denise M. Jacks
Committee Reporter